



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/341,241	09/14/99	DUPUIS	2350-73

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EXAMINER
SHARAREH, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1619	

DATE MAILED: 12/20/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/341,241

Applicant(s)

Dupuis et al

Examiner

Shahnam Sharar h

Group Art Unit

1619



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 13, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-14 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☒ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

various patentably distinct non-cross linked copolymer of type acrylic with hydrophobic chain (claims 1-3, 8).

various types of surface-active agents selected from the group nonionic type, anionic type, or amphoteric type (claims 1, 4-5).

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

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2. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Non-cross linked copolymer of type acrylic with hydrophobic chain (claims 1-3, 8).

Surface-active agents selected from the group nonionic type, anionic type, or amphoteric type (claims 1, 4-5).

The following claim(s) are generic: 1

3. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Claims 1-14, drawn in Markush format, encompass multiple independent and patentably distinct compositions. More specifically, the instant polymeric entities comprise patentably distinct monomeric blocks, because they are directed to (a) dissimilar acrylic copolymers or terpolymers (i.e. acrylic acid/lauryl (meth)acrylate copolymers are not viewed to render methacrylic acid/ethyl acrylate/polyethylenated lauryl acrylate terpolymers obvious), (b) chemically dissimilar hydrocarbon moieties selected from linear, branched, cyclic or acyclic, and (c) distinct surface active agents; non-ionic, anionic, amphoteric. It is noted that the claims encompass such final products as those set forth in Examples 1-4 and listed on pages 14-16 of the specification. It is considered that a Markush-type claim encompassing such species is directed to multiple independent and patentably distinct inventions since the species are so unrelated and diverse that a reference anticipating one of the species would not anticipate or render obvious the other species. Further, the species are considered to be independent since they are unrelated in operation, one

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does not require the other for ultimate use, and specification does not disclose a dependent relationship between them. Moreover, each of the stated species is considered to be patentably distinct from the others on the basis of its properties.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election. By species is meant a single compound. The compound may be named in any of four ways (or any combination thereof): (a) according to the IUPAC standard, (b) by a pictorial representation of the compound, (c) by setting forth the specific chemical group that each variable of the Markush group represents, or (d) by naming a claim or an example which itself sets forth a single compound.

Since the instant claims are drawn to a composition of matter which contains more than one group of monomeric entities, a single unit (as described above) should be elected for each group of compositions. It is not necessary to elect a single compound for groups of compounds which are inert and have no bearing on the patentability of the composition (e.g. it would not usually be necessary to elect which solvent or buffer system the composition will be associated with.) For the instant election of species, non-cross linked copolymer of the acrylic, the desired hydrophobic chain and type of surface active agent should be specifically named.

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. A telephone call was made to Mr. Sadoff on December 13, 2000 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shahnam Sharareh, PharmD whose telephone number is (703) 306-5400. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diana Dudash can be reached on 703-308-2328. The fax phone number for this Group is 703-308-


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4556. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

ss 12/12/2000



DIANA DUDASH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600